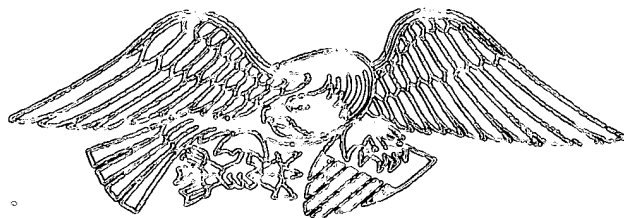


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OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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pre-ter-mit (prē'tar-mīt') *tr.v.* -mitted, -mitting, -mits. 1. To disregard intentionally, or allow to pass unnoticed or unmentioned. 2. To fail to do or include; omit; neglect. [Latin *praetermittere*, to let go by: *praeter*, beyond (see *preterit*) + *mittere*, to let go (see *smelt* in Appendix*).] —*pre-ter-mis'sion* (-mīsh'ən) *n.* —*pre-ter-mit'ter n.*

pre-ter-nat-u-ral (prē'tar-nāch'ar-əl) *adj.* 1. Out of or beyond the normal course of nature; differing from the natural; abnormal; exceptional: "He bore a preternatural resemblance to his caricatures in the evening papers." (Evelyn Waugh). 2. Transcending the natural or material order, often connoting divinity; supernatural. [Medieval Latin *praeternaturalis*, from Latin *praeter* *nātūram*, beyond nature: *praeter*, beyond (see *preterit*) + accusative of *nātūra*, NATURE.] —*pre-ter-nat'u-ral-ism n.* —*pre-ter-nat'u-ral-ly adv.* —*pre-ter-nat'u-ral-ness n.*

pre-test (prē'tēst') *n.* 1. a. A test given to determine whether a class is sufficiently prepared for a new course. b. The condition of a sample prior to experimental modification. 2. The advance testing of something, such as a questionnaire, product, or idea. —*v.* (prē'tēst') *pretested, -testing, -tests.* —*tr.* To subject to a pretest. —*intr.* To conduct a pretest.

pre-text (prē'tēkst') *n.* An ostensible or professed purpose; pretense; excuse. —*tr.v.* *pretexted, -texting, -texts.* To allege as an excuse: "I shall pretext a catastrophe." (Aldous Huxley). [Latin *praetextus*, outward show, pretense, from past participle of *praetexere*, to weave in front, cloak, disguise, pretend: *prae-*, before + *texere*, to weave (see *teks-* in Appendix*).] —*pre-text'ed n.*

Pre-to-ri-a (pri-tōr'ē-ā, -tōr'ē-ā). The administrative capital of the Republic of South Africa, in central Transvaal, 35 miles northeast of Johannesburg. Population, 480,000.

Pre-to-ri-us (pri-tōr'ē-əs, -tōr'ē-əs), **Marthinus Wessels**. 1819-1901. First president of the Republic of South Africa.

pret-ti-fy (prēt'i-fī') *tr.v.* -fied, -fying, -fies. To make pretty.

—*pret-ti-fi-ca'tion n.* —*pret-ti-fi'er n.*

pret-ty (prēt'ē) *adj.* -tier, -tiest. 1. Pleasing or attractive in a graceful or delicate way. 2. Excellent; fine; good. Often used ironically: "This is a pretty time to be coming to your sewing class, I must say." (Lillian Hellman). 3. Archaic. Elegant; fine. 4. Effeminate; foppish. 5. Informal. Considerable in size or extent: a pretty fortune. —See *Synonyms at beautiful*. —*adv.*

1. To a fair degree; somewhat; moderately: He is a pretty good student. 2. Regional. Prettily; pleasingly. —*sitting pretty, Informal.* In favorable circumstances; in a good position. —*n., pl.* pretties. One that is pleasing or pretty. —*tr.v.* *prettied, -tying, -ties, Informal.* To make pretty. Used with *up*: pretty up the house. [Middle English *prety*, *praty*, clever, skillfully made, fine, "pretty," Old English *prættig*, cunning, tricky, from *prætt*, trick, wile, craft, from West Germanic *pratt-* (unattested).] —*pret-ti-ly adv.* —*pret-ti-ness n.*

pre-tu-ber-cu-lous (prē'tōō-būr'kyə-ləs, -tyōō-būr'kyə-ləs) *adj.* Pertaining to lesions of tuberculosis occurring before the actual development of the disease.

pret-zel (prēt'səl) *n.* A glazed biscuit, salted on the outside, usually baked in the form of a loose knot or stick. [German *Pretzel*, *Brezel*, from Old High German *brezitella*, from Medieval Latin *brachiattellum* (unattested), diminutive of *brachium* (unattested), "armlet," hence a ring-shaped cake, from Latin *brachium*, arm, from Greek *brachion*. See *mreghu-* in Appendix*.]

Preus-sen. The German name for Prussia.

pre-vail (pri-vāl') *intr.v.* -vailed, -vailing, -vaits. 1. To be greater in strength or influence; to triumph or win a victory. Often used with *over* or *against*. 2. To be or become effective; succeed; win out. 3. To be most common or frequent; be predominant. 4. To be in force, use, or effect; be current. 5. To use persuasion or inducement successfully. Used with *on*, *upon*, or *with*. —See *Synonyms at persuade*. [Middle English *prevayllen*, from Latin *praevalēre*, to be more powerful: *prae-*, before, beyond + *valēre*, to be strong (see *wal-* in Appendix*).] —*pre-vail'er n.*

pre-vail-ing (pri-vāl'ing) *adj.* 1. Most frequent or common; predominant. 2. Generally current; widespread; prevalent. —*pre-vail'ing-ly adv.* —*pre-vail'ing-ness n.*

Synonyms: *prevailing, prevalent, current, rise.* The widespread existence of some condition is implied by these adjectives. *Prevailing* implies predominance at a certain time: *prevailing opinion*. *Prevalent* suggests a condition that is merely widespread, with less emphasis on time. *Current* stresses the immediate present: *current trends*. It is often applied to things subject to frequent change. *Rise* emphasizes rapidity of multiplication.

prev-a-lent (prēv'ə-lent) *adj.* Widely or commonly occurring or existing; generally accepted or practiced. See *Synonyms at common, prevailing*. [Latin *praevalens*, present participle of *praevalēre*, to PREVAIL.] —*prev'a-lence n.* —*prev'a-lent-ly adv.* **pre-var-i-ate** (pri-vār'ē-āt') *intr.v.* -cated, -cating, -cates. To stray from or evade the truth; equivocate: "The curious thing about art-speech is that it prevaricates so terribly." (D.H. Lawrence). [Latin *praevaricari*, to walk crookedly, deviate from one's course or path of duty, collude: *prae-*, before, beyond + *varicare*, to straddle, from *varicus*, straddling, from *varus*, stretched, bent, knock-kneed (see *varus*).] —*pre-var'i-ca'tion n.* —*pre-var'i-ca'tor (-kā'tor) n.*

pre-ven-lence (pri-vēn'yəns) *n.* 1. The act or state of being antecedent or preventive. 2. Attention to another's needs.

pre-ven-lent (pri-vēn'yənt) *adj.* 1. Antecedent; previous; preceding. 2. Expectant; anticipatory. [Latin *praeveniens*, present participle of *praevenire*, to come before, precede, anticipate: *prae-*, before + *venire*, to come (see *gwā-* in Appendix*).] —*pre-ven'lent-ly adv.*

pre-vent (pri-vēnt') *v.* -vented, -venting, -vents. —*tr.* 1. To keep from happening, as by some prior action; avert; thwart. 2. To keep (someone) from doing something; hinder; impede. Often used with *from*. 3. Obsolete. To anticipate or counter in advance: "Your goodness still prevents my wishes." (Dryden). 4. Obsolete. To come before; precede. —*intr.* To present an obstacle: *There will be a picnic, if nothing prevents.* [Middle English *prevenien*, to anticipate, from Latin *praevenire*, to come before, anticipate: *prae-*, before + *venire*, to come (see *gwā-* in Appendix*).] —*pre-vent'a-bil'i-ty, pre-vent'i-bil'i-ty n.* —*pre-vent'a-ble, pre-vent'i-ble adj.* —*pre-vent'er n.*

Synonyms: *prevent, preclude, obviate, forestall.* These verbs refer to stopping or hindering an action or eliminating a situation or condition that could produce an action. *Prevent* strongly implies decisive counteraction to stop something from happening. *Preclude* makes an event or action impossible or largely ineffectual by removing the conditions for it, while *obviate* makes an event or action unnecessary in the same way. *Forestall* less forcefully implies anticipatory action to prevent or hinder an imminent happening, but not by eliminating the conditions for it.

Usage: *Prevent* is often followed by a gerund. A noun or pronoun preceding the gerund is in the possessive case: *We tried to prevent Jim's leaving* (not *Jim leaving*). Such examples can also be expressed: *We tried to prevent Jim from leaving. She prevented them from moving.*

pre-ven-tion (pri-vēn'shən) *n.* 1. The act of preventing. 2. A hindrance; obstacle.

pre-ven-tive (pri-vēn'tiv) *adj.* Also *pre-ven-ta-tive* (-tā-tiv). 1. Designed or used to prevent or hinder; acting as an obstacle; precautionary. 2. Medicine. Thwarting or warding off illness or disease; prophylactic. —*n.* Also *pre-ven-ta-tive*. 1. Something that prevents; an obstacle. 2. Medicine. Something used to ward off illness. —*pre-ven'tive-ly adv.* —*pre-ven'tive-ness n.*

pre-view (prē'vyū) *n.* Also *pre-vue*. 1. An advance showing of a motion picture, an art exhibition, or some other event to an invited audience, prior to public presentation. 2. Any advance viewing or exhibition, especially the presentation of several scenes advertising a forthcoming motion picture. —*tr.v.* *pre-viewed, -viewing, -views.* Also *pre-vue; -vued, -vuing, -vues.* To view or exhibit in advance.

pre-vi-ous (prē'vē-əs) *adj.* 1. Existing or occurring prior to something else in time or order; antecedent: "The best public measures are seldom adopted from previous wisdom." (Franklin). 2. Informal. Premature; hasty. —*previous-to*. Prior to; before. [Latin *praevious*, going before, leading the way: *prae-*, before + *via*, way (see *wei-* in Appendix*).] —*pre-vi-ous-ly adv.* —*pre-vi-ous-ness n.*

previous question. *Abbr. p.q. Parliamentary Procedure.* The motion to take an immediate vote on the main question being considered or on any other questions so designated. Adopted by a two-thirds vote, this motion is often used to end debate. Compare *cloture*.

pre-vice (prē'viz') *tr.v.* -vised, -vising, -vises. 1. To foresee. 2. To notify in advance. [Latin *praevidere* (stem *praevis-*): *prae-*, before + *videre*, to see (see *weid-* in Appendix*).] —*pre-vi'sion (-vīzh'ən) n.* —*pre-vi'sor (-vī'zər) n.*

pre-vo-cal-ic (prēvō-kāl'ik) *adj.* Phonetics. Preceding a vowel.

pre-vo-ca-tion-al (prēvō-kā'shən-əl) *adj.* Of or pertaining to instruction given in preparation for vocational school.

pre-war (prē'wōr') *adj.* Existing or occurring before a war.

prex-y (prēk'sē) *n., pl. -ies.* Slang. A president, especially of a college or university. [Shortened variant of *PRESIDENT*.]

prey (prā) *n.* 1. Any creature hunted or caught for food; quarry. 2. A victim: "To dumb Forgetfulness a prey." (Gray). 3. Archaic. Something taken by violence; booty: "The rascal people, thirsting after prey." (Shakespeare). —*intr.v.* *preyed, preying, preys.* 1. To hunt, catch, or eat as prey: *Owls prey on mice.* 2. To victimize or make a profit at someone's expense. 3. To plunder or pillage. 4. To exert a baneful or injurious effect: *Remorse preyed upon his mind.* [Middle English *preye*, from Old French *preie*, from Latin *praeda* "booty," *prey*. See *ghend-* in Appendix*.] —*prey'er n.*

PRG Airport code for Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Pri-am (pri'am). *Greek Mythology.* King of Troy, the father of Paris and Hector, killed when his city fell to the Greeks.

pri-ap-ic (pri-āp'ik, -āp'ik) *adj.* Also *pri-a-pe-an* (pri'ā-pē'an). Phallic. [From *PRIAPUS*.]

pri-a-pism (pri'ā-pīz'm) *n.* Persistent, usually painful, erection of the penis, especially as a consequence of disease. [French *priapisme*, from Late Latin *priapismus*, from Greek *priapismos*, from *priapizein*, "to act like Priapus," be lewd, from *Priapos*, *PRIAPUS*.]

pri-a-pus (pri-ā'pəs) *n.* 1. Capital P. The Greco-Roman god of procreation, guardian of gardens and vineyards, and personification of the erect phallus. 2. An image of the god Priapus, often used as a scarecrow in ancient gardens. 3. A representation of the phallus. [Latin, from Greek *Priapos*.]

Prib-l-tof Islands (prib'ə-lōf'). A group of islands in the Bering Sea, off the southwestern coast of Alaska. They are the breeding ground for most of the world's fur-bearing seals.

price (pris) *n.* *Abbr. pr.* 1. The sum of money or goods asked or given for something. 2. The cost at which something is obtained. 3. The cost of bribing someone: *Every man has his price.* 4. A reward offered for the capture or killing of a person. 5. Value or worth: "She is a pearl / Whose price hath launched above a thousand ships." (Shakespeare). —*tr.v.* *priced, pricing, prices.* 1. To fix or establish a price for: *shoes priced at nine dollars.* 2. To find out the price of: *spent the day pricing dresses.*

ā pat/ā pay/ār care/ā father/b bib/ch church/d deed/ē pet/ē be/f file/g gag/h hat/hw which/I pit/i ple/tr pier/j judge/k kick/l lid, needle/m mum/n no, sudden/ng thing/ō pot/ō toe/ō paw, for/oi noise/ou out/ōō took/ōō boot/p pop/r roar/s sauce/sh ship, dish/

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pricket
Sixteenth-century Venetian